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Page 6

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend page 1, paragraph 1, lines 13-21 as follows:

The present application claims the benefit of ~~priority to~~,
and is a continuation-in-part of PCT application PCT/US00/41005,
filed September 27, 2000, which in turn claims the benefit of
priority under U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. Provisional Patent
Application Number 60/156,153, filed September 27, 1999, both of
which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend page 45, paragraph 1, lines 10-11 as follows:

genes in the tested RNA sample. Alternatively, ~~TaqMan~~ TAQMAN
@(Applied Biosystems) enables a fully quantitative time-course
demonstration of the level of expression